



West Lake T3ND, T40MD, Hancock County, Maine

area 1344 acres



WEST LAKE

T3 ND and T40 MD, Hancock Co.
U.S.G.S. West Lake and Spring Lake, Me (7½')

Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Brook trout	Golden shiner
Round whitefish	Blacknose dace
Rainbow smelt	Creek chub
Smallmouth bass	Fallfish
White perch	White sucker
Yellow perch	Banded killifish
Chain pickerel	Ninespine stickleback
	Pumpkinseed sunfish
	American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area - 1344 acres

Temperatures:

Maximum depth - 70 feet

Surface - 72°F
65 feet - 50°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, white perch

West Lake is located in the Passadumkeag River drainage in northern Hancock County. The lake is surrounded by mostly spruce and fir forest with some hardwoods. The shoreline around the lake including the islands and the basin is predominately rocky with a few small sand beaches. The rocky shoreline generally drops off steeply to a sandy bottom. Mud bottom and emergent vegetation can be found only in a few small coves around the lake. Portions of the north and east shores are heavily developed with seasonal camps. Fortunately, LURC regulations will strictly control new development to protect the lake from further water quality degradation.

Existing water quality is excellent for the production of coldwater fisheries. The lake does stratify thermally during the summer months and maintains sufficient oxygen in the deeper water for coldwater fishes.

There are several tributaries that support smelt spawning runs. Brook trout are found in most of the tributaries but do not make a significant contribution to the lake fishery possibly due to the large white perch population in the lake. Salmon do spawn in the outlet however few wild salmon are found in the lake fishery.

Salmon are stocked each year and produce an excellent salmon fishery. Brook trout are occasionally stocked and the returns from these stockings vary greatly. Smallmouth bass are plentiful, but growth is slow due to the oligotrophic nature of the lake. There is a large white perch population and some perch grow to large sizes. Pickerel are not abundant due to the lack of habitat.

There are two unimproved launching sites on the lake. One site is on the northeast side and the other is at the south end. There are plans to construct an improved site in the cove on the northwest end of the lake.

Surveyed - August 1952

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